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Message Text

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53
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3203

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, UN, NL
SUBJECT: MEETING OF ROK OFFICIAL WITH NETHS FONMIN

SUMMARY: DURING JULY 11-14 VISIT TO THE HAGUE, BYUNG CHOON HAM, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT PARK, DISCUSSED EVOLUTION ROK POLICY VIS-A-VIS NORTH KOREA, UNCURK AND RELATED MATTERS WITH DUTCH FONMIN VAN DER STOEL.
END SUMMARY.

1. ROOKMAAKER (DIRECTOR, FAR EAST AFFAIRS, MFA) TOLD US HAM BEGAN CONVERSATION WITH VAN DER STOEL BY STATING FUNDAMENTAL CONSIDERATION FOR ROK IS FACT THAT NORTH KOREA IS INSPIRED BY ITS REVOLUTIONARY COMMITMENT. HE THEN SAID THERE HAVE BEEN THREE PHASES IN ROK'S POLICY VIS-A-VIS NORTH KOREA. THE FIRST COULD BE DESCRIBED AS ONE OF ISOLATION IN WHICH ROK'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST THE NORTH. THE SECOND PHASE WAS ONE OF DIALOGUE WITH THE NORTH, IN WHICH ROK SOUGHT TO DEAL WITH HUAMANITARIAN CONCERNS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES BUT IN WHICH NORTH INSISTED ON DISCUSSING A PEACE TREATY, WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES AND POLITICAL ISSUES.
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THERE HAD BEEN NO REAL PROGRESS. MEANWHILE, NORTH

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KOREA WAS ACHIEVING SOME SUCCESS IN GAINING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION. HAM SAID THIRD AND CURRENT PHASE OF ROK'S POLICY IS TO DRAW NORTH INTO INTERNATIONAL ARENA IN HOPE THAT FOREIGN CONTACTS WILL MODERATE NORTH'S ATTITUDES REGARDING SUCH QUESTIONS AS UN ADMISSION. THIS APPROACH IS BEING EXPLAINED TO SOUTH KOREAN PEOPLE AS BASED ON CONCEPT THERE IS ONE KOREAN NATION BUT TWO KOREAN STATES STRIVING FOR UNIFICATION. HAM ASKED FOR DUTCH COOPERATION IN DRAWING NORTH KOREA INTO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

2. HAM SAID COMMUNIST NATIONS SHOULD RECOGNIZE ROK AS WELL AS NORTH KOREA SINCE OTHERWISE BALANCE WOULD BE LACKING AND NORTH WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE HARD LINE VIS-A-VIS ROK. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION RE PROSPECTS FOR COMMUNIST RELATIONS WITH ROK, HAM SAID THERE WERE NO RELATIONS AND SOUTH KOREANS CAN'T EVEN OBTAIN VISAS FOR CULTURAL CONTACTS. THERE HAD BEEN ONE RECENT EXCEPTION WHEN SOVIETS HAD ISSUED VISA TO ROK DELEGATE TO A UNESCO MEETING IN MOSCOW, AND SEOUL WONDERED IF THIS MEANT A CHANGE IN SOVIET ATTITUDE.

3. REGARDING UNCURK, HAM SAID SEOUL REALIZES DUTCH AND OTHERS DON'T FEEL IT IS PRODUCTIVE AND WANT TO BE RELIEVED OF BURDEN OF PARTICIPATING IN IT. IF UN DECIDES TO ABOLISH UNCURK, SEOUL WOULD NOT OBJECT BECAUSE MAJOR ELEMENT OF SECURITY ON KOREAN PENINSULA IS ARMISTICE STRUCTURE IN WHICH MAJOR INGREDIENTS ARE UN COMMAND AND MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION. THEREFORE, HAM SAID, IF GOVERNMENTS ARE THINKING OF CHANGING THE SITUATION, THEY SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO CREATE A VACUUM REGARDING EXECUTION OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAINTAINING PEACE SHOULD BE DEVELOPED BY THE UN, E.G. CREATION OF NEUTRAL ZONE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH.

4. VAN DER STOEL THANKED HAM FOR HIS EXPOSE AND COMMENDED JUNE 23 SPEECH OF PRES. PARK WHICH HE SAID PROVES ROK IS FOLLOWING "MOVING POLICY" AND IS TRYING TO FIND SOLUTION TO KOREAN QUESTION IN WIDER INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONTEXT AND ENDEAVORING TO PREVENT ITSELF FROM BEING ISOLATED. (ROOKMAAKER TOLD US GON PREVIOUSLY HAD INFORMED ROK THAT IT HAD WELCOMED PARK'S SPEECH AND WAS PREPARED TO INVESTIGATE WITH OTHERS WHAT STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO PRODUCE REALISTIC SOLUTION OF KOREAN QUESTION; DUTCH AND OTHERS WERE EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF INITIATIVE BY NON-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS TO TERMINATE UN PRESENCE IN SOUTH KOREA WITHOUT THIS RESULTING IN

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REMOVAL OF US FORCES).

5. VAN DER STOEL LIKENED ROK'S CONCEPT OF ONE KOREAN NATION BUT TWO KOREAN STATES TO POLICY PURSUED BY FRG VIS-A-VIS EAST GERMANY, WHICH PERMITTED THIRD PARTIES TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH BOTH STATES. REGARDING RECOGNITION OF SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA BY OTHERS, HE SAID GON RECOGNIZES NEED FOR BALANCE BUT POINTED OUT NORTH KOREA IS ONLY IMPORTANT COUNTRY NOT RECOGNIZED BY GON. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NORTH KOREA, ONCE IT IS AWARE OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ITS POSITION REGARDING "ONE KOREA" AND ITS ADMISSION TO UN, WILL ADOPT A MORE MODERATE LINE. FINALLY, VAN DER STOEL CONFIRMED THAT GON FEELS TIME HAS COME TO ABOLISH UNCURK AND THAT FURTHER INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION IS NECESSARY REGAFDING UN COMMAND AND MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION.
TANGUY

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